IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 8, 9 and 14 and cancel claims 6 and 19 as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A respiratory measurement system, comprising:

a plastic cord having a portion that is configured to be placed across a chest of a person, the plastic cord being substantially transparent to x-rays; and,

a linear position encoder ~~sensor~~ coupled to an end of the plastic cord, the end of the plastic cord being configured to be disposed away from the chest of the person, the linear position encoder ~~sensor~~ generating a measurement signal indicative of an amount of linear displacement of the plastic cord during respiration by the person.

Claim 2 (Original): The respiratory measurement system of claim 1 further comprising a device generating a visual indication of respiratory function of the person based on the signal.

Claim 3 (Original): The respiratory measurement system of claim 2 wherein respiratory function comprises a lung volume level.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The respiratory measurement system of claim 1 wherein the plastic cord comprises a polypropylene string.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The respiratory measurement system of claim 1 further comprising a plastic tube configured to be placed across the chest of the person, the plastic cord being disposed in the plastic tube.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The respiratory measurement system of claim 1 further comprising:

a tabletop having a securing device and a pulley coupled thereto, wherein a first portion of the plastic cord extends between the securing device and the pulley, the securing device and the pulley being positioned on the tabletop to allow the chest of the person to be disposed between the securing device and the pulley.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The respiratory measurement system of claim 7 wherein a second portion of the plastic cord extends from the pulley to the linear position encoder ~~sensor~~.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method for measuring respiratory motion of a person, comprising:

disposing a portion of a plastic cord across a chest of the person, wherein a linear position encoder ~~sensor~~ is coupled to an end of the plastic cord and is disposed away from the chest of the person, the plastic cord being substantially transparent to x-rays; and,

generating a measurement signal indicative of an amount of displacement of the plastic cord during respiration by the person utilizing the linear position encoder ~~sensor~~ coupled to the end of the plastic cord.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 9 further comprising disposing a plastic tube across the chest of the person, the plastic cord being disposed in the plastic tube.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 9 wherein the plastic cord comprises a polypropylene string.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 9 further comprising providing a visual indication of respiratory function of the person based on the signal.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 12 wherein said respiratory function comprises a lung volume level.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A medical diagnostic system, comprising:

a tabletop;

an X-ray device disposed proximate the tabletop;

a plastic cord that has a portion configured to be placed across a chest of a person lying on the tabletop, the plastic cord being substantially transparent to x-rays; and,

a linear position encoder ~~sensor~~ operatively coupled to an end of the plastic cord generating a measurement signal indicative of an amount of displacement of the plastic cord during respiration by the person, the end of the plastic cord and the linear position encoder ~~sensor~~ being configured to be disposed away from the chest of the person outside a scanning area of the X-ray device.

Claim 15 (Original): The medical diagnostic system of claim 14 further comprising a device generating a visual indication of respiratory function of the person based on the signal.

Claim 16 (Original): The medical diagnostic system of claim 15 wherein said respiratory function comprises a lung volume level.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The medical diagnostic system of claim 14 wherein the plastic cord comprises a polypropylene string.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The medical diagnostic system of claim 14 further comprising a plastic tube configured to be placed across the chest of the person, the plastic cord being disposed in the plastic tube.

Claim 19 (Cancelled).

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The medical diagnostic system of claim 14 further comprising a securing device and a pulley coupled to the tabletop, a first portion of the plastic cord extending between the securing device and the pulley, the securing device and the pulley being positioned on the tabletop to allow a chest of the person to be disposed between the securing device and the pulley.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A respiratory measurement system, comprising:

a plastic cord that is configured to be placed across a chest of a person, the plastic cord being substantially transparent to x-rays;

a sensor coupled to the plastic cord generating a measurement signal indicative of an amount of displacement of the plastic cord during respiration by the person; and

a tabletop having a securing device and a pulley coupled thereto, wherein a first portion of the plastic cord extends between the securing device and the pulley, the securing device and the pulley being positioned on the tabletop to allow the chest of the person to be disposed between the securing device and the pulley.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A medical diagnostic system, comprising:

a tabletop;

an X-ray device disposed proximate the tabletop;

a plastic cord that is configured to be placed across a chest of a person lying on the tabletop, the plastic cord being substantially transparent to x-rays;

a sensor operatively coupled to the plastic cord generating a measurement signal indicative of an amount of displacement of the plastic cord during respiration by the person, the sensor being outside a scanning area of the X-ray device; and

a securing device and a pulley coupled to the tabletop, a first portion of the plastic cord extending between the securing device and the pulley, the securing device and the pulley being positioned on the tabletop to allow the chest of the person to be disposed between the securing device and the pulley.